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Title: Problems arising due to funding mechanism of Kuttanand package given on the recommendation of Swaminathan Committee.

SHRIMATI C.S. SUJATHA (MAVELIKARA): Deputy-Speaker, Sir, may I speak from here?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Yes.

SHRIMATI C.S. SUJATHA : Sir, the Government of India in principle accepted Kuttanad package of Rs.1,840 crore on the recommendations of the Swaminathan Committee which studied the problems of this area, which has faced recently the worst agrarian crisis.

However, so far no concrete steps have been taken to implement the recommendations by the Centre. Although the State Government has formed a Prosperity Council under the Chairmanship of the hon. Chief Minister and a budget allocation has been earmarked in the State Budget, the Centre has not yet released any fund towards the specific purpose. This hampers its implementation. The Swaminathan Committee has suggested measures in accordance with the peculiar geographical situation of Kuttanad and surrounding areas. Kuttanad is totally different from other areas of the country with its peculiar landscape position below the sea level. Hence, while taking measures to protect the environment and agriculture, this particular aspect of the area should be taken into consideration.

I urge upon the Government to sanction the proposed projects, building strong dykes, recommended by the Committee and release adequate funds for this proposal.